

Minutes Holden Finance, May 13, 2020
Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Paul Challenger, Dave White, John Lambert, Chris Lucchesi. Don Graves, Stephanie Adams, Jane Titcomb, Marilynn Foley

Member Absent: Joe Dolak

Also Present: Peter Lukes, Town Manager, Stephanie King, Asst. Town Manager, Russ Hall, Fire Chief, Tim Sherbloom, Police Chief, Sharon Lowder, Treasurer/Collector of Taxes, Lori Rose, Town Accountant, Pam Harding, Town Planning and Development, John Woodsmall, DPW Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

Russ discussed that Ambulance #3 due for replacement this fiscal year, so there is \$310,000 in the capital budget for it. Russ also discussed his concerns about the revenue stream for EMS calls for ambulance service. Usage is down for non-emergency calls due to the corona virus pandemic. People are not calling for non-emergency ambulance transport services for fear of contacting the virus at the hospital. He hopes for reimbursement from FEMA. The department should pre-purchase in FY 2020 critical items that we know will be needed for the future to ease pressure on the FY 2021 budget.

Tim reported on grant funding and thanked the Committee for approving the bicycles to be used for community events as soon as restrictions are lifted from the corona virus pandemic.

Sharon discussed the OPEB Trust Fund. New hires now contribute 1% of their income to that fund. In 2021 another actuarial study will be done.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Stabilization Funds. The Finance Committee set a policy years ago aiming to get the stabilization fund plus free cash to equal 15% of the operating budget. This budget will get us to 12.7%.

Pam discussed the warrant articles for purchasing approximately 11 acres of open space on Salisbury Street and putting a permanent development restriction on it in order to prevent a housing development being proposed for that land. She also discussed the warrant articles seeking permission for the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen to acquire the Eagle Lake Dam.

There are 3 warrant articles for repairs to the elementary schools estimated at a combined \$900,000.00 from the Capital Assessment Report for town buildings. 3 projects for Davis Hill, 1 project at Dawson and 1 project at Mayo. The upgrades include different projects for the 3 schools: for example, gutters, downspouts, snow guards, roof repair, fixing concrete damage, doorframes, heating and ventilating (HVAC) upgrades, automatic temperature controls. The SBA has an accelerated repair program districts can apply to for help funding repairs which we will be attempting to qualify for.

The Committee discussed the DPW Capital Budget items with John.

The Committee was updated on the DPW Building Project. Bids are expected to go out in June. It is a very uncertain market for construction now, with the pandemic having shut down all construction, many companies putting off projects and new safety protocols to be put in place. No one is quite certain of how our bid will be received.

Peter will get the Committee more information on the repair items for the pool.

A motion by Dave 2nd by Don to accept the minutes from May 6, 2020 was voted unanimously by roll call vote ayes Adams, Challenger, Foley, Gravel, Lambert, Lucchesi, Titcomb, White.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilynn Foley, Clerk